



Getting Youth Engaged Backgrounder

2011 Achievements Highlights:

- All of the City's 24 community centres and libraries have youth advisory groups who meet regularly to plan and organize programs and events at the facilities. Some advisory groups created unique identities such as Mississauga Valley Community Centre's TNT (Teen Networking Together), Frank McKechnie Community Centre's "Youth In Motion" and Burnhamthorpe Community Centre's B.E.S.T (Burnhamthorpe Engaging Students Together);
- 421 free youth drop-in programs and events lead by youth at community centres and libraries have attracted 33,552 youth participants;
- 2,500 students in 35 high schools participated in Mississauga Transit's outreach campaign through the MiWay student ambassador program. Student ambassadors educate their peers on how to use the bus and promote the benefits of taking the bus instead of being driven to school;
- 155,000 young people attended 9 free youth events held on Mississauga Celebration Square this summer;
- 2,000 youth attended a youth led symposium "YouthConnect 2011" on Mississauga Celebration Square. A street team of 25 youth and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee volunteered 700 hours to organize and deliver the event which featured local youth entertainers, art in the park, street hockey, table tennis and 35 youth agencies who set-up booths at the event;
- The Youth Movement assisted a number of youth serving agencies in delivering youth mentoring programs and events that resulted in over 2,000 youth participants in new programs such as Riverwood's "Young Buds Program" and "Special Needs Cardio Works Program"; Big Brother's and Sisters "Big Bunch Program" and Citizens For Advancement of Community Development's "After School Mentoring Program." These partnerships have helped to attract and retain youth, and create new employment and leadership opportunities for them.
- Youth advisory teams co-ordinated an end of season celebration and 2012 kick off event at Riverwood Conservatory. 80 young people who volunteered during 2011 at the community centres and libraries travelled by MiWay transit to Riverwood where they were inspired by motivational speakers, participated in team building games and mulched a trail with woodchips before concluding the event at a BBQ where they were recognized for their contribution to the community.